

# GIANT FLAME FROM LIBERTY'S BIG TORCH.

Half a Mile Wide  
and Making a New  
Planet with New  
York's Million Lights.

Did you ever think of the enormous illuminating power that is centered in New York City?

Conceive, if you can, a giant torch, with a dazzling flame over a half-mile wide, paling the stars with its effulgence of over 230,000,000-candle power.

Yet that is the effect that would be produced if all the gas, electric and oil lamps burned on any one night on Manhattan Island could be concentrated at some one point—at the Statue of Liberty, for instance—to flash its signal perhaps to distant spheres.

What a peering there would be through the telescopes of the astronomers of Mars, and the man in the moon would gaze with regret upon what would appear to him the prophesied destruction of the world by fire.

An electric light of 700,000-candle power on the Eiffel Tower could be seen, when directed in a special direction by a reflector, for a distance of 117 miles. The torch made up of the lamps of New York City would, at this rate, if properly elevated, send its rays a distance of 88,379 miles. The torch's rays, if directed upward, would be plainly visible in London and San Francisco. This light would reach around the world once and a half.

The greatest lighthouse in the world is at Housholm. It has an electric light of 2,000,000-candle power, and can be seen thirty-five miles through rain, and plainly made out for 100 miles in fair weather. The New York light on a tower high enough should be seen 10,500 miles in either direction. Such a light suspended in the heavens would appear as a luminary.

The facts as to illuminants in New York City, as nearly as the facts can be got at, are as follows:

Incandescent electric lamps, 900,000, with an average of 16 candle power each, 14,400,000 candles; are lights, 8,000, there being 200 dynamos, each with a capacity of 40 lamps, each lamp with a power of 1,000 candles, 8,000,000; 400,000 gas consumers, each operating an average of 20 flames of 25 candle power each, making 20,000,000 candles. To this must be added 7,500,000 total candle power for kerosene, naphtha and candles, giving a grand total of 230,000,000 candles, enough to start up an opposition sun, to render New York City tropical in its temperature and banish night from the Greater New York and its neighbors for a hundred miles around.

The mere item of street illumination at the public expense is not inconsiderable. There are, to speak by the card, according to Superintendent McCormick, of the Street Lighting Department, 52,706 lights. Of these 25,000 are gas lamps, for which a force of 25 candles each is claimed, although there are people who will not accept this statement, not being prepared yet to believe that the gas companies prefer the public comfort to profit.

There are 400 arc lights on Broadway and Fifth avenue and in some of the smaller parks. Naphtha lamps to the number of 233 still accentuate the gloom in the lanes, roads and fields beyond the Harlem. The remainder of the lights are of the incandescent pattern.

The largest electric installation in New York City is at the Metropolitan Opera House, where 10,000 incandescent lamps are in use. The Hotel Majestic has 5,000 electric lights, and the Waldorf 4,500. The Manhattan Trust building has 3,500 lights and the American Trust Society building 3,000. Installations of from 1,500 to 2,000 lamps are common in the great sky-scraping office buildings. The largest plant of arc lights is that in the yards of the New York Central and New York & New Haven railroads.

Yet, nevertheless, gas has held its own better in New York against electricity than in any other city in the country. New York City gas, in consequence of the competition that is continually springing up, is of fair quality. All buildings of high class, apartment houses as well as office blocks, are now being equipped with electric wires.

and gas may some time be superseded, but not in this generation.

Less than one two-hundredth part of the lights of New York are on the streets. As stated above, they number about 53,000, with a total candle power of 1,000,000. There are 885 miles of streets on Manhattan Island regularly lighted. If the combined illuminating power of the city, 230,000,000, should be applied to street lighting, avenues aggregating 88,380 miles, or nearly three and a half times around the world, could be made safe for pedestrians after dark.

Allowing 20 candles as the power of the ordinary taring candle torch, and the illuminating power of New York would furnish the proper glow for an army of 110,000,000 marching cohorts of somebody and reform. This light, converted into a cathode ray, would lay open the secrets of mother earth clear through to China.

The heat incidental to this illumination, converted into energy, would run every electric trolley car in New York State and would do the cooking for half the country. But, above all, when this wonderful thing should be done, there would appear a new star in the heavens to those who are so situated as to be able to see it.

## KAISER WILLIAM AGAIN.

He Tries to Secure the Rehabilitation of a Mutilated Ancient Statue, with Poor Results.

Modern sculptors have again failed to come up to the artistic standard of the old masters. One of the great antique treasures in the Berlin museum is the "Dancing Bacchant Girl," which, when exhumed, was found to be minus the head and the greater part of the torso, the left arm remaining to become the despair of moderns. The Emperor of Germany, with a view to stimulating the sculptors of his empire, offered a year ago a prize of 2,000 marks for the best reconstruction of the torso. Twenty of Germany's most famous modellers competed, but the committee to whom the designs were submitted has just reported that no one offered is worthy the classic outlines of the mutilated figure, and the award was withheld. The Emperor has ordered another competition and increased the premium to 3,000 marks.

## EMPTY COFFIN BURIED.

Singular Discovery in France of a Dead Body Long After It Was Thought to Have Been Interred.

A curious tale comes from France of a dead body that was found again in the room from which it had been taken days before, supposedly, and interred with all the solemn rites of burial.

A poor old woman who lived in wretched state in the village of Portes died not long ago in the abandoned bake house where she was accustomed to sleep. It was four days before her death was discovered, at the end of which time a search was made for her by the villagers who had missed her from her accustomed haunts.

## A NEW GAME OUT WEST.

The "Tea and Test Social," Invented in Philadelphia, Has Spread Rapidly and May Become Popular Here.

The "Tea and Test Social," which had its origin in Philadelphia, has taken the West like wildfire, and has for the time being entirely supplanted the dangerous game of "bean bag" and "button, button, who's got the button?" It is even held in higher favor than the spelling bee, that paradoxical literary game in which the person who has shown the least need for it is presented with a dictionary.

A "Tea and Test Social" may, by a little ingenuity, be converted into a "bee and Test," or any other consonant may be

## TO SIGNAL TO MARS.



## HOUSEHOLD CREMATION.

Here is a New System Which, It Is Believed, May Solve the Problem of Greater New York's Refuse.

Sooner or later the primitive and dangerous system under which the garbage of the Greater New York is taken a greater or less distance out to sea, where it is dumped, to be washed back upon the shores of Long Island, will be supplanted by something modern, rational and sanitary. The company that controls the system ultimately determines whether it be destruction, reduction or conversion into commercial commodities will secure a large, juicy plum.

It is the extreme value of this privilege that is responsible for the fact that New York and Brooklyn alone, of the cities of the United States, are not disposing of their refuse in a scientific way. The representatives of at least six concerns are located in New York to-day, all with sumptuous offices. They are mixing up in politics and fraternizing with municipal officials, executive and legislative. There are millions in it, and each is playing his cards cautiously.

In the meanwhile a little device has come into use that may solve the garbage problem and render unnecessary any elaborate and extensive system of public furnaces or crematories, and also save the enormous annual expense of the collection of a city's refuse. It is a household crematory, and it is such a simple thing that the only wonder is it was not invented years ago. It has passed the experimental stage.

The owner of the device has over five hundred testimonials from well-known people in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Among the most enthusiastic of the endorsers are Mayor Strong and Street Commissioner Waring. There are also testimonials from Miss Tracey, precentress in domestic science in the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn; Mrs. "Jennie June" Croly, Miss Jeannette Glider and scores of other ladies who have adopted the system of "cremation in the kitchen."

Nothing can be more offensive than the results of an attempt to burn green garbage directly in a stove. The practice is forbidden by a local ordinance. The kitchen crematory is more properly a carbonizer. In the joint of the pipe or elbow that makes the connection between the stove and range or chimney flue is placed a horizontal cylinder or drum, somewhat larger than the stove pipe connection. This drum is permanently closed at one end, the other being removable and is a basket or tray made of perforated iron shorter and smaller than the stove pipe. This basket when in use is charged with kitchen waste which has first been drained of free moisture in the sink. It is then locked in the cylinder, and the heat of the fire, passing under the scoop and through the perforations, soon dries all the moisture out of the stuff and converts it into a charred and odorless waste, which is a good quality of charcoal, and is found especially useful in starting the next morning's fire.

This household cremator is also applied to gas ranges, and the refuse converts into ashes. The system is, of course, up on an extended scale in hospitals and public institutions. The New York Hospital, has cremated its own refuse for six years. President Wilson, of the Board of Health, has written that household cremation of refuse will greatly simplify the problem of guarding the city's health.

## EARTHQUAKE SCIENCE.

Professor John Milne Tells of the Internal Fires of Earth and the Cracking of the Upper Crust.

It has long been the popular belief that volcanoes were the cause of earthquakes, and many scientists have held to this theory, but Professor John Milne, F. R. S., who has recently been investigating the causes of earthquakes in Japan, in connection with the University of Tokio, made the statement in a lecture the other day that most of these shakings, probably ninety-five per cent, were caused by fractures of the earth's crust.

He explained that the earth's crust was in perpetual motion, and the tremor was either so slight as to be imperceptible or so great that it might plainly be felt. It is not, he said, necessary to go to Japan or South America to study earthquakes, for an earthquake in one part of the world can, by proper instruments, easily be recorded in another.

"The inside of the earth is hot," said Professor Milne, "and the crust is constantly breaking downwards, and as it accommodates itself to what is underneath, the surface of the earth's crust becomes puckered up, and mountains and hills are formed. When any interruption takes place in the process of the internal crumbling of the crust of the earth, there is a subsidence producing a violent shaking, which is called an earthquake. If a big shaking takes place in any part of the world the motion is sufficient to be propagated over the whole surface of the earth."

"In countries where there are volcanoes earthquakes are most frequent, but they are not all directly attributable to the volcanoes. When the ground opening upwards is near the ocean or other great body of water, volcanoes are found there, for volcanic action is due to steam from water in heated rocks, the water having soaked through from the surface."

"In Japan earthquakes, great or small, are of such frequent occurrence that people there do not talk about the weather, as they do almost everywhere else in the world, but you are asked what you thought of the last earthquake, and there is much guessing and betting on the earthquakes that are to come."

"The game, which is said to be especially suitable for a church parlor," is played as follows: A committee, preferably the pastor or the school master, proposes a list of questions, which are written or printed upon a slip of paper, allowing room for the answer, which, in the case of a "Tea Test," must embody the sound of the consonant "T." For instance, a form sent out from the Quaker City suggests such questions as these:

"What did our forefathers fight for?" The answer is obviously "liberty," or a Bostonian might say "tea."

"What is a total abstainer?" Why, a teetotaler, to be sure.

"Forever and ever?" Wouldn't the infant class reply in chorus: "Eternity?" Here are other samples:

Faithful allegiance? Loyalty.

The crown of woman? Parity.

The best policy? Honesty.

Eve's falling? Curiosity.

A witty retort? Repartee.

The power of the age? Electricity.

Beauty's temptation? Vanity.

The "Four Hundred"? Society.

It is presumed that after a reasonable length of time the cards will be collected and prizes awarded to those who answer all the questions, after which the whole party will sit down to drink "tea."

The game may be changed to suit the place and conditions. Suppose the letter "E" is selected in this city. Thus you have opportunities for indulging in persiflage as to "Mayorality," "Teddy," "Bowery," "New Jersey," "Albany," "T. C. P.," "G. O. P.," "Democracy," "Economy," "Batteries," "Monopoly," "Grover C.," "Chauncey D. P.," "Levi P.," and many others.

The Mayor was notified and sent the village physician to investigate. The latter reported that the old woman had met her death from natural causes, and preparations for the burial of the corpse were at once begun. The undertaker brought the coffin to the place where the body lay, but, feeling that a strict compliance with all the requirements of the law was the only safe course for him to pursue, he did not place the body on its bier, but left the coffin closed and standing in the centre of the room while he went to seek the Mayor for a burial permit.

Shortly after the undertaker had departed, some monks came with a hearse. The Mayor had given these monks the burial permit in question, and they, having other urgent matters which demanded their attention, picked up the coffin hurriedly and placed it in the hearse. Then the funeral cortege, headed by the cure and followed by some of the townsfolk, proceeded to the church, where a mass was said, and thence to the cemetery, where the interment duly took place.

Every one believed that the old woman had been buried when, twenty-three days later, a man happening to enter the deserted bake house, noticed something unusual in the rags which covered the bed where the old woman had been accustomed to lie. Looking a little closer, to his surprise and horror he discovered resting there the body of the woman whom every one supposed to have been buried nearly a month before. The cold weather had stayed decomposition and it was well preserved.

The result is that the Mayor, the undertaker, the cure and the monks are all quaking in their shoes, for the prefect of the department has ordered a judicial investigation to discover who is to blame and threatens to punish severely whoever is found to be the guilty one.



If All the Lights in New York Were Put Together.